

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing control method for controlling color tones of prints in time of a printing operation having an image data creating process for creating image data for making the prints, and a printing process for performing printing based on the image data created in the image data creating process,

wherein said image data creating process includes:

a representative point setting step for setting representative points with respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine, for use in controlling color tones in images to be printed; ~~and~~

a representative point information storing step for storing representative point information including information on the positions of said representative points set with respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine; ~~and~~

a PDL data creating step for creating PDL data; and

a platemaking data creating step for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data created in said PDL data creating step, said PDL data creating step and said platemaking data creating step using common representative point information, wherein said platemaking data creating step is carried out for correcting the representative point information used in said PDL data creating step, and

wherein said printing process includes:

an information receiving step for receiving said representative point information along with said image data;

a printing execution step for executing printing based on said image data; and

a color tone controlling step for controlling an ink feeding rate, based on the differences between the color tones at the representative points and the target color tones, by comparing image data of the prints produced in said printing by comparing image data of the prints produced in said printing executing step and said representative points.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Original) A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said printing process is carried out for correcting the representative point information stored in said image data creating process.

4. (Original) A printing control method as defined in claim 1, further comprising: an image data correcting process for correcting said image data so that the color tones at the representative points set in said representative point setting step agree with target color tones; wherein said information receiving step is executed to receive said representative point information along with the image data corrected in said image data correcting process.

Claims 5-6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) An image data creating apparatus for creating image data for producing prints, comprising:

representative point setting means for setting representative points with respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine, for use in controlling color tones in images to be printed; and

information storage means for storing, along with said image data, representative point information including information on positions of said representative points set with respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine[[],];

PDL data creating means for creating PDL data; and

platemaking data creating means for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data created by said PDL data creating means, said PDL data creating means and said platemaking data creating means using common representative point information, wherein said platemaking data creating means is arranged to correct the representative point information used by said PDL data creating means,

wherein, in said controlling color tones, an ink feeding rate is controlled, based on differences between color tones at the representative points and target color tones, by comparing image data of the prints produced and said representative points.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said representative point information stored in said information storage means is corrected.

10. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising: image data correcting means for correcting said image data so that color tones at the representative points agree with target color tones; wherein said information storage means is arranged to store said representative point information including said information on the positions of said representative points along with the image data corrected by said image data correcting means.

Claims 11-14 (Cancelled).